

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

May 10, 2011

The financial and physical abuse of elder and dependent adults is a growing problem in the state of California. It is difficult to determine exact rates of elder and dependent abuse since it is a highly under-reported crime, and individuals often feel embarrassed about reporting these types of crimes. Undoubtedly, this problem will continue to grow as the Baby Boomer generation grows older. In addition, there are many more sophisticated forms of fraud, forgery, theft, embezzlement, identify theft and other scams being perpetrated against elder and dependent adults. The use of new technologies often makes it difficult to detect these schemes.

Early this year, Senator Pavley introduced SB 586 which provides for the regulation of signature stamps including safeguards against fraudulent use, doubles the fines for crimes committed against the elderly, and dedicates the increase in these fines to county adult protective services agencies located in the jurisdiction where the crime is prosecuted for the purpose of abuse prevention and investigation. This legislation is another positive step in extending protections to a vulnerable population.

A key provision in this legislation is the increase of fines for crimes perpetrated against elder and dependent adults. The bill doubles the current fines and dedicates the

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additional fine amount to local adult protective services agencies. In most counties, adult protective services programs remain underfunded and understaffed due to state budget constraints. Any additional revenue will provide much needed services to elder and dependent adults in our communities who are at risk of neglect, physical, and financial abuse.

The County's State Legislative Agenda includes policies for senior and adult services; specifically, to support increased funding for adult protective services programs which enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent adults. Support of AB 586 is consistent with that legislative policy.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support SB 586 (Pavley); and
2. Instruct the County's legislative advocates in Sacramento to advocate for the passage of SB 586 and to notify the Board of any substantive revisions that modify the intent of the bill as currently written.

SN S:\Support SB 586